GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2529
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2002
CRICKET RELATION WITH PAKISTAN
Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan is keen to play cricket with India;

(b) if so, whether Pakistan`s President urged New Delhi not to mix sports with politics; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKIRISHNAN)

(a) to (c): Indian Cricket teams as well as teams in other sports continue to play Pakistani teams at regular multi-lateral tournaments.

Pakistani leaders frequently resort to propagandist statements including calls for resumption of normal sporting links, in order to divert international attention from Pakistan`s continued sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India. These efforts have proved to be futile. The international community now openly acknowledges the fact that Pakistan sponsors cross border terrorism in India and uses terrorism as an instrument of state policy.

Pakistan must end its sponsorship of terrorism in India so that conditions for normal, peaceful and cooperative ties with India are created.